



# The Horsemen's Newsletter

October 2014

Vol. 24 • Number 9

## Free English Classes Offered At Laurel Park

To help horsemen who want to improve their English skills, the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association in conjunction with Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund will be offering two free 10-week English as a Second Language courses beginning in October. One course will be on Sunday evenings and the other on Tuesday evenings. Both will be in the Recreation Room at Laurel Park.

Taught by Esthermaria Esquina, currently an adjunct faculty member at Baltimore City Community College and Montgomery College in Silver Spring, the courses will each be three hours a week, from 5 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., and will include a 15 minute dinner break.

The first Sunday class will begin Oct. 12, while the first Tuesday class will start Oct. 14. The target size for each class is 10 students, so space is limited.

"My first goal in our first class is to get to know the students and understand their needs," said Esquina, who has been teaching adults since 2007. "I know they will have various levels and various goals. From there I will go ahead and help them achieve those goals."

"The course is designed to help them acquire and improve their ability to communicate their needs. I want the students to realize they have the ability to speak, write and read [the English language]."

Registration is open to all horsemen on a first come, first serve basis. Though classes are

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English

## Keefe Elected President, Other Officers Named

The election of trainer Tim Keefe as only the third President in Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association history, coupled with the election of seven new members to the MTHA's Board of Directors, signals a new, more inclusive direction for MTHA leadership. After being elected President, Keefe was excited about the organization's future.

"I think the new Board is very energetic," he said. "Everyone is looking forward to adding their own input and is anxious to get started."

The Sept. 4 meeting - at which Officers were elected - was the first since the Board of Directors was chosen in an election which saw unprecedented voting with over 25 percent of the MTHA membership casting a ballot.

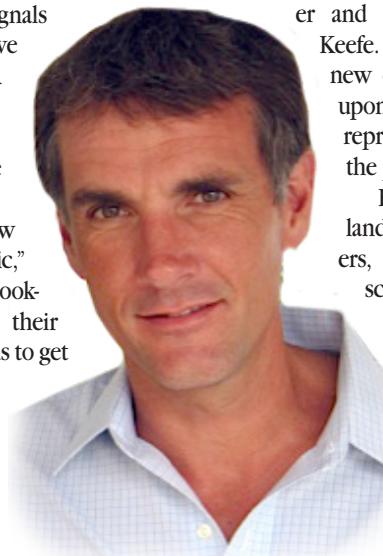
Joining Keefe on the Officers roster is founding member Linda Gaudet and R. Larry Johnson as Vice Presidents, as well as Michael Horning as Treasurer.

The Officer positions aren't ceremonial. Each will oversee most of the functions of the Association. Gaudet will head a Committee tasked with overseeing all racing and welfare related issues. Johnson will head a Committee in charge of oversight of the relations between industry stakeholders. Horning will manage financial duties related to the internal finance and governance of the Association.

Keefe replaces outgoing President Richard J. Meyer, who served in this ca-

pacity since 2012. Meyer replaced Richard Hoffberger, who had held the position since the Organization's founding in 1987.

"I very much appreciate the leadership and service of past Presidents Meyer and Hoffberger," remarked Keefe. "I look forward to our new direction which builds upon a strong foundation of representing horsemen for the past 27 years."



Keefe is one of Maryland's most successful trainers, having arrived on the scene in 1993. Since then, he has mapped the careers of some of the best horses based in Maryland including Eightfastocatch, Celtic Innis and Red's Round Table.

"I think they might have elected me as a middle-of-the-road guy who sees all sides of the business," Keefe said.

But Johnson, a Board member for the past three years and the newly elected Vice President, who describes himself as a "very outspoken critic" of past Boards, said there is another reason for Keefe's election.

"Yes, he's demonstrated that he's a hardworking person who is receptive to change and to better cooperation between horsemen and breeders," Johnson said. "But I think there is more to it than that. He's a person who has demonstrated a sincere interest in making things better."

"Making things better" seems to be the underlying building block for this

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# Recreation Report

## Cookout Was A Success

The MTHA held its annual Backstretch Appreciation Picnic on Sunday, September 20. Over 350 backstretch employees and their families attended the sun drenched event at Laurel.

Many door prizes were awarded to backstretch employees. The winners included Manuel Hernonody (Robin Graham), Jose Varajas (Michael Trombetta), Kevin Herra (Rodney Jenkins), Joseph Daniels (Dale Capuano), William Herrera (Rodney Jenkins), Jose Roberto Vajjas (Dane Kobiskee), Mike McMullen, Skeets Holland, Aaron Garcia (Tim Keefe), Juan Ramirez, Louis Maccary (Feris Allen), Michael Sunni (Rodney Jenkins), Matco Pinones (Donald Barr).

Special thanks goes out to Eduardo Garcia Rico who operated the shuttle from Bowie and Pimlico to Laurel, Diana Pinones for all her hard work, Bill Marsh for laying down the tunes and Russell Clark and his team for the top-notch catering. Job well done by all!

## Texas Hold'em

A Texas Hold'em Mock Poker Tournament will be held at the Bowie Track Kitchen on October 13 starting at 12 noon. Sign up at the track kitchens.

## Orioles Ticket Winners

Aug. 2	vs Seattle	Todd Redding
Aug. 8	vs St. Louis	Edmund Benson
Aug. 12	vs New York	Robbie Bailes
Aug. 25	vs Tampa Bay	Vernon Allinson
Aug. 27	vs Tampa Bay	D.M. Stallings
Aug. 29	vs Minnesota	Jose Medina

## Fall Golf Tournament

The MTHA sponsored a Fall Golf Outing at the Walden Country Club on Monday, September 22. Approximately 55 golfers had a great time of golf, food, drink and fun. The following were the winners of the golf outing:

Team Awards - 1st Place: Shooting a 62 was the team of Ron Louden, Ed Henry, Jerry Hroblak and Lee Siekelcki.

2nd Place: Ken Cox, Kelly Cox, J.D. Brown and Paul Plymire.

3rd Place: Wayne Potts, Marty Leonard, Cory Moore and Brandon Barshinger.

Closest to the Pin Winners: B.J. Jones, Ed Henry and Katy Voss.

Longest Drive Award: Chris Michael.

Baseball Ticket Package Winners: Carl Hopkins and Ron Louden.

We are planning two golf outings for next year so mark your calendars now for April 27, 2015 and September 28, 2015.

## Donations

With winter approaching, the MTHA clothes drive becomes more important. Thank you to the following individuals who recently donated to the program: Charles Frock, Rosemary Lishia, Pheobe Hayes, Katherine Size and Jack Adamecz.

**ATTENTION**  
As of October 1, all licenses should be renewed with sticker **14/15**. Failure to comply will result in immediate suspension.



## News Clips

### Assistance Fund Receives Grant



Thoroughbred Charities of America has awarded a grant to the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund Inc., the organization that provides medical care and other benefits for backstretch employees in need.

TCA distributes grants to several categories of Thoroughbred industry related nonprofits including rescue, rehabilitation and adoption organizations, as well as education and backstretch programs.

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free, students must pay a \$20 deposit at signup. The deposit will be refunded upon successful completion of the course.

Students must register for either the Sunday or Tuesday class, but, if necessary, will be permitted to switch days as often as needed on a case-by-case basis with the permission of the instructor during the 10-week sessions.

To register, prospective students must contact Diana Pinones in the MTHA's Laurel Park office at 410-902-6844 and fill out a registration form. The registration deadline is Oct. 8.

The MTHA/MHAF will host a to-be-determined class completion ceremony, most likely at the MTHA Christmas Party.

# 2014 Backstretch Appreciation Day



No one left hungry as Russell Clark served up pit beef, pork and ham and all the fixings to over 350 backstretch workers on Sunday, September 21 at Laurel Park.

# Board Actions

MTHA Board Meeting – September 4, 2014

**Members present:** A. Ferris Allen, Christine E. Bricker, Ellen M. Charles, Linda S. Gaudet, JoAnn Hayden, Michael F. Horning, R. Larry Johnson, Timothy L. Keefe, Robert T. Manfuso, H. Graham Motion, Charles J. Reed, Michael J. Trombetta and Katharine M. Voss.

**Members absent:** Dale Capuano and Lawrence E. Murray

## Election of Officers

The Board unanimously voted Mr. Keefe as President, Mrs. Gaudet and Mr. Johnson as Vice Presidents and Mr. Horning as Treasurer.

## 2014 Christmas Party

The Board unanimously authorized any expenditures related to a Horsemen's Christmas Party to be held on Saturday, December 6 at Laurel Park.

## Maryland Horse Radio

The Board unanimously approved a continuation of the sponsorship of Maryland Horse Radio.

## English as a Second Language Classes

The Board unanimously authorized expenditures, on a trial basis, to resume English as a Second Language classes at Laurel Park on the condition that these expenses are split 50-50 with Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund.

## Bowie On Call Veterinarian

The Board unanimously authorized expenditures related to the retention of an on call veterinarian until October 1, 2014, during training hours at Bowie Training Center on the condition these expenditures are split 50-50 with Maryland Jockey Club.

**Next Open Board Meeting: October 9, 2014 at 5 p.m.  
Directors Room, Laurel Park**

## Baltimore's Horseshoe Casino Opens



The long awaited Horseshoe Casino Baltimore opened August 26, marking a new milestone in Maryland's development of casino gambling.

The casino is the fifth and last of the five casinos initially planned when lawmakers approved slot machine gambling in a 2007 special session, a plan later approved by voters in a statewide vote in 2008.

The Baltimore casino is home to

2,500 slot machines and 122 table games like blackjack.

While the state initially planned for five casinos, a sixth one located in Prince George's County was approved in a 2012 special session, when lawmakers also allowed table games in addition to slot machines.

The casino at National Harbor is on track for a 2016 opening. That casino also was approved in a statewide vote.



A special thank you to the Maryland Jockey Club for their efforts to address concerns expressed by the Health & Safety Committee by installing a safety gate and a quarantine barn at Laurel Park.

**The Party  
Is On Again!**  
Saturday, December 6th



Mark Saturday, December 6th in your calendars as this is the date of the 2014 MTHA Horsemen's Christmas Party. Fun, food, dancing and awards. It's become Maryland racing's night out! Check future newsletters for details and instructions on ticket purchasing options.

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Board as it moves forward.

Gaudet, one of several Directors who have been on the Board since the MTHA was founded, said having a more open operating procedure under the new leadership can only make things better.

"I think we all feel pretty good about the direction of the Association and industry as a whole," Gaudet said. "Yes we have challenges, but now we have before us a new framework to meet those challenges in a more productive manner."

"There's pressure on us now to make sure we get things done and move forward. And I think having Tim as President is a real positive. I've known him for a long time. He doesn't get ruffled. He takes things well, good and bad. He has a good head on his shoulders."

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published by the  
**MTHA**

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## BOORDY VINEYARDS

12820 LONG GREEN PIKE, HYDES, MD 21082

Friday, October 31, 2014

6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

\$80 PER PERSON | \$150 PER COUPLE  
RESERVED TABLES AVAILABLE

LOTS OF SCARY FUN...  
FOOD, DRINKS & DANCING . SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS  
WITCH HUNT & GAMES

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:  
[WHINNYWHISKERS@THEFOXIEGFOUNDATION.ORG](mailto:WHINNYWHISKERS@THEFOXIEGFOUNDATION.ORG)  
OR LAURIE CALHOUN AT 301.667.2553



*All proceeds benefit the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of Thoroughbreds and felines*



## MTHA

500 Redland Court, #105  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

**October 2014**

STANDARD  
PRE-SORT  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #15  
WESTMINSTER, MD

# Obamacare Registration Assistance Provided



The Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund will assist backstretch workers to learn more about and sign up for health care under the new Affordable Care Act.

For help in English or Spanish, stop in the MTHA racetrack office during live racing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or call Bobby Lillis at 410-902-6843 or Bill Borchardt at 301-776-0404.

## Board of Directors

Timothy L. Keefe, President  
Linda S. Gaudet, Vice President  
R. Larry Johnson, Vice President  
Michael F. Horning, Treasurer  
A. Ferris Allen III  
Christine E. Bricker  
Dale Capuano  
Ellen M. Charles  
JoAnn Hayden  
Robert T. Manfuso  
H. Graham Motion  
Lawrence E. Murray  
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